



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

cc: MINISTER ROXON
Dr Angela Pratt
Mr Ross Bain
Ms Donisha Duff
Mr Learmonth
Mr Morris
Ms Norris

RECEIVED
18 APR 2011
Parliamentary Section

MINUTE TO THE MINISTER

MINISTER SNOWDON

Critical Date: 15 April 2011

FUNDING FOR STRONG FATHERS STRONG FAMILIES PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To request that you approve the funding approach under the *Strong Fathers Strong Families* Program. To ask that you note the list of organisations recommended for funding.

ISSUE:

2. Assessment of applications for the *Strong Fathers Strong Families* (SFSF) program is complete. A list of organisations recommended for funding is presented for you to note (Attachment A). This approach allows for thirteen organisations to receive start-up funding in 2010-11 and continued funding in 2011-12 to 2013-14 to support a three year project.

REASON FOR CRITICAL DATE

3. Your agreement with the approach to funding is needed by 15 April 2011, so that funding approval can be formalised by the Department and funding agreements can be finalised prior to the end of the 2010-11 financial year. Delay could contribute to underspends in this program.

BACKGROUND:

4. An Invitation to Apply for funding under the SFSF program was released in late 2010.
5. Fifty five applications were received of which fifty were compliant (Attachment C).

RELEVANCE TO ELECTION COMMITMENTS/GOVERNMENT POLICY/COAG REFORM AGENDA:

6. The SFSF program was announced in the 2010-11 Budget as part of the *National Male Health Policy - Building on the Strengths of Australian Males* measure.
7. Under this measure, \$6 million (GST exclusive) was allocated to "promote the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in their communities, and encourage them to actively participate in their children's and families' lives, particularly during the antenatal period and in early childhood". The funds were allocated as \$2 million in each financial year, to start in 2010-11.

Remote Service Delivery National Partnership (RSDNP):

8. Three remote service delivery priority communities (Yirrkala, Mornington Island and Doomadgee) will benefit from SFSF programs if the recommended organisations are funded.

COMMENT:

- 9. The 2010-11 Budget measure announced \$6 million (GST exclusive) for three years.
- 10. The Program Guidelines, endorsed by the Minister for Finance in November 2010, clearly identify SFSF as a three year program.
- 11. Of the 50 applications assessed in this process, 19 scored 65/100 or greater. Each of these applications was considered suitable for funding and assessed as providing value for money.
- 12. Funding only the top ranking 12 organisations will cost a total of \$5.9 million (GST exclusive), falling short of the Budget measure announcement.
- 13. The Department recommends funding the top ranking 13 organisations at a total cost of \$6.8 million (GST exclusive) for the program. This funding approach exceeds the Budget measure announcement by \$0.8 million in total, and extends the program end date into 2013-14, therefore your approval is required. Note that over the three year program some underspends are likely to occur, delays may be experienced and changes in deliverables may occur, which will reduce actual expenditure.
- 14. The additional \$0.8 million (GST exclusive) is available from Healthy for Life and the extension into 2013-14 will also come from this program. Neither the additional funding amount nor extended timeframe will have a negative impact on the operation of that program.
- 15. Further details regarding the funding options considered by the Department are documented at Attachment B.

Sensitivity:

- 16. There may be some criticism from the Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations sector about a number of "mainstream" services being successful, particularly in NSW and Queensland (see Attachment C). We will discuss with your office our plans for managing the consultations.

17. 

Financial Implications:

- 18. The recommended approach provides up to \$6.8 million (GST exclusive) over four years from late 2010-11 to 2013-14. Funds are available under BRE 187, Outcome 8, OATSIH Base Funding, Healthy for Life program. This will have no negative impact on the delivery of the Healthy for Life program. The use of this category of base funding is appropriate for SFSF. Reg 10 approval is in place and Reg 9 approvals will be sought through the State and Territory Offices, as funding agreements are finalised.

Compliance with Commonwealth Grant Guidelines:

- 19. Applications for submissions under this funding round and assessment has been conducted in accordance with the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines.

Timing/Handling:

- 20. The Department anticipates that funding agreements will be varied by May 2011 to support funding under the SFSF program. Under funding guidelines, it is not possible to announce details of the successful applicants until funding agreements have been finalised. Once finalised, the Department will work with your office to arrange an announcement.

Consultations:

- 21. The following divisions/agencies were consulted in the preparation of this Minute: PSD.

- 22. The Deputy Secretary:

was consulted on the approach of this Minute	<input type="checkbox"/>
has sighted this Minute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
none of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

- 23. Once approvals are in place a copy of the outcomes will be provided to the Communication Strategy and Services Unit. Community awareness activities for this item/issue will be discussed between your advisers and the Communication Strategy and Services Unit.

RECOMMENDATION

R1. That you NOTE the funding approach for the *Strong Fathers Strong Families* program – funding 13 organisations at a total cost of \$6.8 million (GST exclusive) from 2010-11 to 2013-14.

R2. That you NOTE the organisations recommended for funding (Attachment A).



Joan Corbett
for Linda Powell
First Assistant Secretary
OATSIH
4 April 2011
Outcome: 8: Indigenous Health



WARREN SNOWDON

R1. ~~NOTED~~

R2. ~~NOTED~~

15 APR 2011

N 11000582

Contact Officer:
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FHWB

MINISTER'S COMMENTS:

*I would appreciate a discussion
at some point in the near future
about the policy underpinning these
grants and their relationship to
other programmes funded through DORCA*

14/4/2011

Advice Rating	1	2	3	4	5	Comments
Timeliness						
Presentation						
Quality of Advice						

Poor
Satisfactory
Excellent

ATTACHMENTS:

- ATTACHMENT A: Organisations recommended for funding - *Strong Fathers Strong Families* program
- ATTACHMENT B: Funding Options Considered – *Strong Fathers Strong Families* program
- ATTACHMENT C: List of all assessed applications – *Strong Fathers Strong Families* program